

THE

# HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

October 1996

## OCTOBER HAPPENING

On Halloween night, October 31st, beginning at 5 p.m., we will once again present our HALLOWEEN TREAT. This is our annual historic tour of the Cedar Rest Cemetery. For those who have been absent from the area for a few years, the tour is presented on Halloween night with a three-way purpose. It is the October function of the Society; it teaches the history of the area; and our presence helps prevent vandalism in the cemetery.

Guides escort guests through the cemetery along candle-lit walks to about 15 locations where costumed actors present biographical sketches of the persons buried there.

Whenever possible we ask descendants of the deceased to portray their ancestors and provide information that might otherwise be unknown to us.

The tableau this year will present the biographies of Kate Lobrano, David Dow Posey, Louise Crawford, Anthony Benvenuti, Catherine Benvenuti, Wilson Cuevas, Katrina McDonald, Eaton Bowers, Benjamin Lane Posey, Portia Labat, Charles Sanger, Charles Marshall, Rita Breath Boh, Ginger B. Paradis and Rocking Chair Lady.

A donation of \$1 is requested

**Scuppernong Juice**  
Exquisite Taste, Wonderful Flavor, Refreshing  
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**Old Brown's Vineyard**  
**A. C. BROWN, PROP.**  
*Bay St. Louis. Miss.*

This label was copied from one on a bottle that was produced by the Brown's Vineyard during Prohibition

## A JUG OF WINE, A LOAF OF BREAD

Tourists and natives alike enjoyed the delights of Brown's Vineyard where, from the late nineteenth century until Prohibition, guests alighted from Tally-Hos: wagons drawn by a double team of horses used as taxis to hotels. Brown's Scuppernong Champagne and homemade bread were served. *A jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou...*

The following is a brief history of the vineyard written in 1977 by Margaret M. Gibbens, one of the founders of this historical society.

## BROWN'S VINEYARD

By Margaret M. Gibbens

Frederick W. Brown (Braun) and his wife Anna came from  
(Continued on page 2)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Please plan to attend the Halloween Treat on October 31st. Last year we had approximately 500 visitors for the tour. Bring friends. It is a safe and fun way to spend Halloween Night.

We have had an excellent response (as always) to our request for punch cups. A special thanks to Mrs. Homer Hitt, the first to arrive. She brought three boxes of cups. Within minutes Becky Weston brought in another boxful, followed by Richard and Barbara Zitzman and Nan Ehrbright. Then Dorothea (Chair Lady) Martin arrived with more. There were also two punch bowls and a number of odd cups that appeared. We thank you all and invite you in advance to come help use them at our Christmas party, yet to be announced.

Election of members to the Board of Directors for 1997 will be conducted at the November meeting. Positions being vacated this year are 1st Vice President (Program Chairman); 2nd Vice President (Membership); Recording Secretary and Publicity.

Any member can nominate any other member for any position either at the meeting or by submitting the name in writing to the Lobrano house office. Our board meetings are held at noon for the benefit of those who work, one day each month except in the case of an emergency so there is no great demand on your time. Please consider accepting one of these positions. We expect this to be our best year and certainly one of great accomplishments.

The Katherine Lobrano rose garden was presented the *Gather Ye Rosebuds* garden of the month award for October. It is in excellent bloom especially this week. We thank the members of *Gather Ye Rosebuds* for this honor and we thank Jim Bell for his splendid maintenance of them for us.

Charles Gray

**"LIVE AND DIE IN DIXIE"**

H. E. "Buddy" Engelhorn presented an autographed copy of H. Grady Howell, Jr.'s excellent new book, "Live and Die in Dixie" which is a history of the Third Mississippi Infantry, C.S.A. This book contains over 600 pages detailing the composition and activities of this unit and has a marvelous collection of photographs and an extensive index. Mr. Howell sent along a note requesting copies of additional photographs of Mississippi Confederates in uniform. He expects this work, when completed, will be three more volumes, up to 1000 pages each. Let us know if you have any Confederate photos that you will share.

**UNITED STATES FLAG**

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning". " This is Public Law 623, Title 36, Section 176 (k).

The Friendship Oak chapter of the National Society of the

Daughters of the American Revolution will present an educational program on Saturday, November 2, at 2 p.m. at the Diamondhead

*"...The flag....should be destroyed in a dignified way..."*

Community Church. They will explain the proper procedure for maintaining, displaying and finally disposing of flags when they are no longer suitable for display. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

**RENAISSANCE PROJECT**

Do you know someone who can tell an old story that happened in Hancock County's history? The Renaissance Project is looking for stories to be celebrated in public murals and published in the first Hancock County Folklore Book. Is your neighbor, friend or family member the keeper of some special knowledge that should be shared with everyone. People are needed to tell the stories, gather the stories and to type the stories. If you wish to help in this project in any way, please call Sharon Kronlein at 467-2283 or Dixie Boyd at 467-2764.

**STORY CIRCLE**

On Halloween night (After the Cedar Rest Cemetery tour) come tell and listen to **HOST STORIES** from this area, - starting at 8 p.m. Serenity Gallery, 126 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi  
Phone 467-3061

## (Brown's from page 1)

New Orleans to Bay St. Louis-Waveland area in the early 1860's. Frederick and Anna were natives of Germany. In March of 1867 the Browns purchased a plot of land from Lorenzo Corte in Section 34, Township 8 Range 14 West in Hancock County. Included in this sale were live stock, mules, cows, hogs, farming utensils and a house of furniture. It had been a business of Mr. Brown's to make wine and on this location he also added the machines and the equipment to make the wine which was to become famous all over the United States.

In the year 1912 Frederick and Anna added to their property holding 43 more acres which they bought from A. A. McCue. This property ran to Nicholson Avenue. It was at this location they planted the Scuppernong Grape vines on approximately 15 acres of their land. As the vines grew arbors approximately ten feet square and eight feet high and about ten feet apart were erected. These arbors allowed the visitors to walk under and pick the grapes off the vines.

Brown's Vineyard soon became a One Family garden spot of beauty located near the pine woods some five miles from Bay St. Louis. Mr. Brown's Wine soon became popular and the Scuppernong Champagne Wine was served with the bread that was made by his wife Anna. Popularity grew and about 1905 Tally-Ho Wagons with a double team of horses would carry hotel guests of the Pickwick, Tulane

and Clifton Hotels to Brown's Vineyard to drink the wine and eat the bread and dance.

Guests arriving at the Vineyard found a pen which had three alligators. It is told that the resident who was a butcher would bring the alligators scraps of meat and when his truck would drive into the gate the alligators would know he was there and would be waiting for him to feed them.

As the guests entered the house there was a large center hall off which were small individual rooms with round tables and chairs. The guests would sit at a piano in the room and any guest who wished to play could play his favorite song but if there was no one who could play they would ask for Charlie Banderet to come to play for the people, and everyone would dance. On a taped interview with Mr. Banderet of Bay St. Louis who still resides here, he said Mrs. Brown's favorite song was My Pretty Redwing, and Mr. Banderet added it was also his mother's favorite too.

Brown's Vineyard soon became famous in this resort area and people of Society would come from New Orleans to drink this delicious wine, and the vineyard soon became famous for its mail order business as well as serving the residents of the area. It was said that the wine had medical qualities, not a cure but a prevention against illness.

In addition to the house as a place to visit there was also a Summer House, which you could reach by walking through the

center hall to the rear and along a hundred feet or more of arbors. The Summer House was built up on piers, had a covered roof, was open to the breezes and could be used for picnics. The building was capable of seating about 25 or 30 people and was about 50 feet by 20 feet.

Frederick and Anna prospered in their wine and bread making and a wine cellar on the property at one time had an inventory of a thousand dollars.

The Scuppernong Champagne Wine and Brown's Vineyard prospered until the time of Prohibition and Frederick and Anna had to close their Vineyard. There were no longer the visiting vacationers who came to this beautiful grape vineyard and drinking of wine, eating of bread, dancing or picknicking. Frederick and Anna had to close Brown's Vineyard.

It is told that Frederick buried his wine on the grounds of the Vineyard but years later it was learned by the Federal Authorities and they came and dug up the wine and broke all the bottles that remained at Brown's Vineyard.

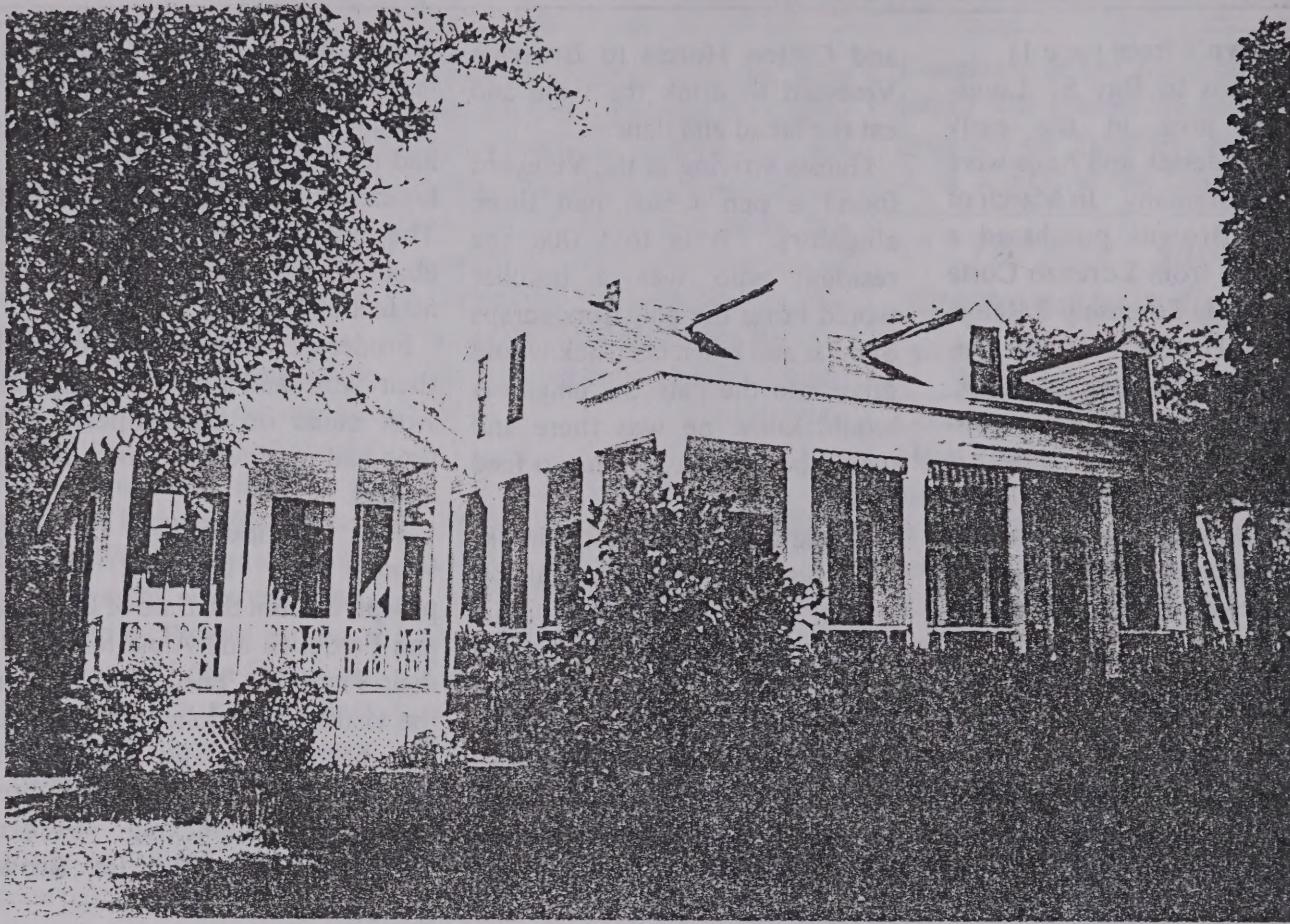


## A PRESIDENTIAL CENTURY IN REVIEW

The 1996 Presidential elections are upon us.

Here's how Hancock County cast its 411 votes in 1896.

Bryan & Sewell (D)	344
McKinley & Hobart (R)	50
Palmer & Buckner	11
Populists	5
Prohibitionists	1



## SWOOP MANOR HOUSE

414 South Beach Boulevard, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

The Swoop Manor House was built in 1853 by Mr. F. Ramogosa, a gentleman from Spain. After he lost two of his three sons to yellow fever he returned to Spain heart broken. The house was lavishly furnished with rare and handsome pieces that Mr. Ramagose had brought from Spain. Thomas Hale, grandfather of Senator Hale Boggs, purchased the house and its furnishings 1857.

Sebastian Swoop purchased the dwelling in Nov. 1880 and in 1904 Julian Swoop purchased it from the other heirs. In 1942, Swoop family members listed were Mr. Timony Swoop. Mrs. Isabel Swoop Hillery, Mrs. George W. Nott Jr. and their mother's sister, Miss Ella Timony.

The metal work around the front porch is a product of the Shakespeare & Swoop iron business in New Orleans. The main section consists of an entryway, parlor, four bedrooms and a large finished attic that today serves as a massive bedroom.

Another section is reached by an open couloire or porchway. It contains a large dining room, a kitchen, storage rooms, a bathroom and servants' rooms that have been converted into summer bedrooms. A brick well that once served as the main water supply has dried up, but the coolness of a cellar under the main house hints at how it kept homemade wine and food preserved.

Today, Swoop Manor is owned by Sebastian's grandson, J. Timony Swoop, and the children of his late granddaughter Isabel Hillery.

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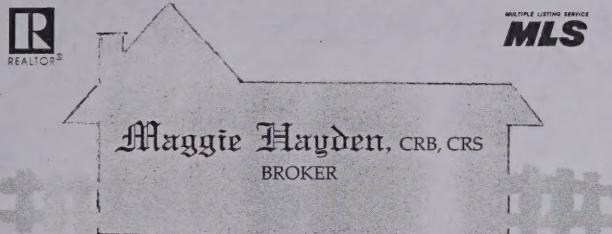
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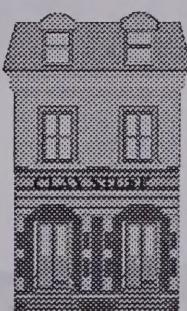
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Hancock County Historical Society

**HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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